

REMARKS

Claims 1-9 are cancelled herein. New claims 10-17 are added herein.

Claim 1-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite.

As Applicant has cancelled claims 1-9 the rejections are rendered moot. Furthermore, Applicant has added new claims 10-17 which endeavor to recite the structure of the invention being claimed in a more distinct and broader manner and address the specific indefiniteness issues raised in the Office Action.

Claims 1, 6/1, 7/1, 8/1 and 9/1 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Mauser (U.S. Pat. No. 3,014,762). Claims 2, 6/2, 7/2, 8/2 and 9/2 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being obvious over Mauser in view Saarinen (GB 699608). Claims 3/1 and 4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being obvious over Mauser in view Kramer (U.S. Pat. No. 3,133,765). Claims 3/2 and 4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being obvious over Mauser in view of Saarinen in further view of Kramer. Claims 5/1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being obvious over Mauser in view Mattingly (U.S. Pat. No.

6,095,600). In summary, the Office Action asserts that Mauser shows primarily if not all of the elements with the structural limitations recited in claims 1-9.

As discussed above, Applicant has cancelled claims 1-9 and therefore the rejections are rendered moot. Moreover, the new claims 10-17 clarify the structure of the invention being claimed. Thus, structural distinctions which make the claimed invention patentably distinguishable over the cited references are evident. However, the Applicant respectfully points out at least some of the structural distinctions over the primary reference, Mauser, which apply to some or all of the new and cancelled claims.

First, Mauser does not disclose a flat blank having concentric circular arches. As may be seen in Fig. 1 of Mauser, center cut-out (5) has a center located where phantom extensions of inwardly extending edges 3a and 3b intersect. The arch formed at the top of the blank proximate to top cut-out (4) has a center that falls at a point on the blank between the center cut-out (5) and the top cut-out (4).

Second, Mauser forms a seat area by securing the edges (3a) and (3b) of the blank (1) together with the edges (3a) and (3b) in abutting or overlapping positions.

Mauser col. 2, lines 3-5 and Fig. 2. Thus, the seat area in Mauser is formed by the **whole conical area** as given by connecting the normal lines delimiting the blank. In contrast, there is a spacing between inner tangents of the current invention and the seat area is formed by a portion of the conical area **and** by two straight-line areas.

Third, in Mauser connection to a carrying structure only functions to affix the seat area and carrying structure together. This is the case even with Mauser in combination with Saarinen, as in Saarinen as well the fastening only functions to affix the seat area and to provide deformation pressures to deform and maintain the deformation of the flat blank. In contrast, the fixing of the seat area to the carrying structure in the present invention also provides the deformation pressure on the seat area.

Applicant would also like to emphasize the inventive efforts inherent in the invention of the current patent application. The seat area has been designed and practically verified in close cooperation and in accordance with the requirements of physicians. The axially symmetrical longitudinal cut-out in the level part of the sitting area (seat) is necessary for relieving and unloading the genitals and anal area of a user. The edge areas of the seat level part are necessary to allow long term

sitting on the user's femoral tissue and optimally accommodates the user's body proportions. Also a practically vertical part of the sitting area is needed as a spinal rest. The Applicant fulfilled these requirements by designing a seat area composed of a truncated cone lateral area and two identical (buckled) straight-line planes; this could be made only in using a special application of knowledge in geometry of (buckled) straight-line areas and by the solution of combination of such areas. Based on a combination created in this manner it has become possible to design an optimized configuration of the seat area by an apparently simple attachment to a carrying structure. So created "straight-line" fastening in the space of the spinal rest in a practically vertical position, and a "straight-line" fastening of the extremities of horizontal seat area edges on the level element of the sitting furniture carrying structure also required a considerable research and development effort to invent an optimum fastening feature, determining the number and position of fastening points. Also the design of a flat single-piece blank, from which a relatively sophisticated form of the sitting area can be shaped by a simple fastening, obviously exceeds a routine qualification and professional background.

Applicant respectfully requests a two month extension of time for responding to the Office Action. The fee of \$245 for the extension is provided for

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In light of the foregoing, the application is now believed to be in proper form for allowance of all claims and notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

JORDAN AND HAMBURG LLP

By C. Bruce Hamburg, Jr., Zev Lev
C. Bruce Hamburg

Reg. No. 22,389
Attorney for Applicants

and,

By M. Zev Lev

M. Zev Levoritz
Reg. No. 50,151
Attorney for Applicants

Jordan and Hamburg LLP
122 East 42nd Street
New York, New York 10168
(212) 986-2340
Enc: Form PTO-2038